

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) An information processing apparatus comprising:
memory means for separately storing functional generation information and application software, wherein the functional generation information enables the application software to access functions when the functional generation information is concurrently located in the memory means with the application software;

managing means for managing first functional generation information stored in said memory means that ~~corresponds to~~ enables the application software to access first functions stored in said memory means;

obtaining means for obtaining second functional generation information that ~~corresponds to~~, if located in the memory means, would enable the application software to access second functions, wherein the second functional generation information is registered in an information providing apparatus, wherein the information providing apparatus is remotely located from said information processing apparatus and connected to said information processing apparatus via a network, and wherein said obtaining means obtains said second functional generation information based on said first functional generation information;

comparing and determining means for comparing said first functional generation information and said second functional generation information and for determining which of said first or second functional generation information is a newest functional generation information; and

information updating means for, when said comparing and determining means determines that said second functional generation information is newer than said first functional generation information, updating said first functional generation information

stored in said memory means to said newest functional generation information, such that said memory means contains said second functional generation information and the application software is able access the second functions.

2. (Previously Presented) The information processing apparatus as claimed in claim 1, further comprising passage determining means for determining whether a predetermined time has passed on a basis of said first functional generation information,

wherein when said passage determining means determines that said predetermined time has passed, said obtaining means obtains said second functional generation information registered in said information providing apparatus via said network.

3. (Previously Presented) The information processing apparatus as claimed in claim 1, further comprising application software updating means for updating the application software stored in said memory means to application software corresponding to said second functional generation information when said comparing and determining means determines that said second functional generation information is newer than said first functional generation information.

4. (Currently Amended) The information processing apparatus as claimed in claim 3, further comprising function determining means for determining whether said application software has ~~a function~~ the second functions corresponding to said second functional generation information when said comparing and determining means determines that said second functional generation information is newer than said first functional generation information,

wherein when said function determining means determines that said application software does not have the ~~function~~ second functions corresponding to said second functional generation information, said application software updating means updates the application software stored in said memory means to a newest application software corresponding to said second functional generation information.

5. (Currently Amended) The information processing apparatus as claimed in claim 3, further comprising:

medium determining means for determining whether a recording medium is loaded;
and

reading means for reading third functional generation information that ~~corresponds to~~ enables an application software recorded on said recording medium to access third functions when said medium determining means determines that said recording medium is loaded,

wherein said comparing and determining means compares said third functional generation information as well as said first functional generation information and said second functional generation information with each other and determines which of the first, second, or third functional generation information is a newest functional generation information,

wherein said information updating means updates said first functional generation information stored in said memory means to said newest functional generation information, such that said memory means contains said newest functional generation language, and

wherein said application software updating means updates the application software stored in said memory means to newest application software corresponding to said newest functional generation information.

6. (Previously Presented) The information processing apparatus as claimed in claim 5, wherein when said obtaining means does not obtain said second functional generation information via said network, said comparing and determining means compares said first functional generation information and said third functional generation information, and determines which of said first or third functional generation information is said newest functional generation information.

7. (Previously Presented) The information processing apparatus as claimed in claim 5, wherein when said comparing and determining process determines that said second functional generation information and said third functional generation information are identical with each other, said information updating means updates said first functional generation information stored in said memory means to said third functional generation information, such that said memory means contains said third functional generation language; and

wherein said application software updating means updates the application software stored in said memory means using application software corresponding to said third functional generation information.

8. (Currently Amended) An information processing method comprising:
obtaining second functional generation information,

wherein the second functional generation information would enable that
corresponds to an application software to access second functions if the second
functional generation information is concurrently located in a memory with the
application software,

wherein the second functional information is registered in an information providing apparatus, and

wherein the information providing apparatus is remotely located from said information processing apparatus and connected to said information processing apparatus via a network, ~~and wherein said second functional generation obtaining includes obtaining functional information based on a first functional generation information that corresponds to the application software stored in a memory;~~
comparing said ~~first functional generation information~~ and said second functional generation information to a first function generation information stored in the memory,

wherein the first functional generation information enables the application software to access first functions; and

determining which of said first or second functional generation information is a newest functional generation information; and

updating, when it is determined ~~by a process of said comparing and determining~~ that said second functional generation information is newer than said first functional generation information, said first functional generation information stored in said memory to said second functional generation information such that said memory contains said second functional generation information and said application software is enabled to access the second functions.

9. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium including computer executable instructions, wherein the instructions, when executed by a computer, cause the computer to perform a method comprising:

obtaining second functional generation information ~~that,~~

wherein the second functional generation information would enable
~~corresponds to~~ an application software to access second functions if the second
functional generation information is concurrently located ~~stored~~ in a memory of [[a]]
the computer with the application software,

wherein the second functional information is registered in an information
providing apparatus, and

wherein the information providing apparatus is remotely and separately
located from the computer and connected to the computer via a network, ~~and wherein~~
~~obtaining second functional generation information obtains said second functional~~
~~generation information based on first functional generation information that~~
~~corresponds to the application software stored in the memory of the computer;~~
comparing said ~~first functional generation information~~ and said second functional
generation information to a first functional generation information stored in the memory,

wherein the first functional generation information enables the application
software to access first functions; and

determining which of said first or second functional generation information is a
newest functional generation information; and

updating, when it is determined ~~by a process of said comparing and determining~~ that
said second functional generation information is newer than said first functional generation
information, said first functional generation information stored in the memory of the
computer to said second functional generation information, such that the memory of the
computer contains said second functional generation information and said application
software is enabled to access the second functions.

10. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium including computer executable instructions, wherein the instructions, when executed by a processor, cause the processor to perform a method comprising:

obtaining second functional generation information,

wherein the second functional generation information would enable that corresponds to an application software to access second functions if the second functional generation information is concurrently located in a memory with the application software,

wherein the second functional information is registered in an information providing apparatus, and

wherein the information providing apparatus is remotely located from said information processing apparatus and connected to said information processing apparatus via a network, ~~and wherein obtaining second functional generation information obtains said second functional generation information based on first functional generation information that corresponds to the application software stored in a memory;~~

comparing ~~said first functional generation information and~~ said second functional generation information to a first functional generation information stored in said memory,

wherein the first functional generation information enables the application software to access first functions; and

determining which of said first or second functional generation information is a newest functional generation information; and

updating, when it is determined ~~by a process of said comparing and determining~~ that said second functional generation information is newer than said first functional generation information, said first functional generation information stored in said memory to said second

functional generation information, such that said memory contains said second functional generation information and said application software is enabled to access the second functions.

11. (Currently Amended) The information processing apparatus as claimed in claim 1,

wherein said functional generation information is a combination of cryptographic keys, ~~functions,~~ and protocols, ~~such that~~

wherein said functional generation information is shared among a plurality of application software located in said memory means, such that each of the plurality of application software is enabled to access said functions.

12. (Previously Presented) The information processing apparatus as claimed in claim 1,

wherein said information processing apparatus is a personal computer,

wherein said information providing apparatus is a server configured to provide said personal computer a music content distribution service;

wherein said application software receives a copyrighted material from said music content distribution service; and

wherein said functional generation information enables said application software to receive and use said copyrighted material.

13. (Currently Amended) The information processing apparatus as claimed in claim 5, wherein said information processing apparatus is a personal computer, wherein said

information providing apparatus is a server configured to provide said personal computer a music content distribution service;

wherein said recording medium is a optical disc; and

wherein third functional generation information ~~corresponds to~~ would enable said application software located on said personal computer access to said third functions if said third functional generation information and said application software are concurrently located on said personal computer.

14. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 8, further comprising:
determining whether a predetermined time has passed on a basis of said first functional generation information; and

obtaining, when said determining determines that said predetermined time has passed, said second functional generation information registered in said information providing apparatus via said network.

15. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 8, further comprising updating the application software stored in said memory to application software corresponding to said second functional generation information when the determining determines that said second functional generation information is newer than said first functional generation information.

16. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 8, further comprising:
determining whether said application software has ~~a function~~ the second functions corresponding to said second functional generation information when the determining

determines that said second functional generation information is newer than said first functional generation information; and

updating, when said determining determines that said application software does not have the ~~function~~ second functions corresponding to said second functional generation information, the application software stored in said memory to a newest application software corresponding to said second functional generation information.

17. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium including computer executable instructions, wherein the instructions, when executed by a processor, cause the processor to perform a method as claimed in claim 10, said method further comprising:

determining whether a predetermined time has passed on a basis of said first functional generation information; and

obtaining, when said determining determines that said predetermined time has passed, said second functional generation information registered in said information providing apparatus via said network.

18. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium including computer executable instructions, wherein the instructions, when executed by a processor, cause the processor to perform a method as claimed in claim 10, said method further comprising updating the application software stored in said memory to application software corresponding to said second functional generation information when the determining determines that said second functional generation information is newer than said first functional generation information.

19. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium including computer executable instructions, wherein the instructions, when executed by a processor, cause the processor to perform a method as claimed in claim 10, said method further comprising:

determining whether said application software has ~~a function~~ the second functions corresponding to said second functional generation information when the determining determines that said second functional generation information is newer than said first functional generation information; and

updating, when said determining determines that said application software does not have the ~~function~~ second functions corresponding to said second functional generation information, the application software stored in said memory to a newest application software corresponding to said second functional generation information.

20. (Currently Amended) An information processing apparatus comprising:

a memory configured to separately store functional generation information and application software, wherein the functional generation information enables the application software to access functions when the functional generation information is concurrently located in the memory with the application software;

a managing unit configured to manage first functional generation information stored in said memory that ~~corresponds to~~ enables the application software ~~stored in said memory~~ to access first functions;

an obtaining unit configured to obtain second functional generation information that ~~corresponds to~~, if located in the memory, would enable the application software to access second functions, wherein the second functional generation information is registered in an information providing apparatus, wherein the information providing apparatus is remotely located from said information processing apparatus and connected to said information

processing apparatus via a network, and wherein said obtaining unit obtains said second functional generation information based on said first functional generation information;

a comparing and determining unit configured to compare said first functional generation information and said second functional generation information and configured to determine which of said first or second functional generation information is a newest functional generation information; and

an information updating unit configured to update said first functional generation information stored in said memory to said newest functional generation information, when said comparing and determining unit determines that said second functional generation information is newer than said first functional generation information, such that said memory contains said second functional generation information and the application software is able to access the second functions.